



# Snails

## *Preschool Activities*

### Literature Connection

**Snail Trail** by Ruth Brown

### MEET ZIPPY CRAFT

#### Quick Facts

- Snails are not good for gardens! But they are good for compost piles.
- Snails are also known as gastropods. Gastropods are found in nearly all habitats.
- There are snails small enough to fit through the eye of a needle as well as snails that get well over a foot long.

#### Materials

- Tissue Paper
- Paper Plate
- Construction Paper
- Glue
- Googly Eyes
- Scissors
- Paintbrushes (if using liquid glue)

#### Preparation

1. Cut out the Zippy body template.
2. Shred construction paper of various colors into small squares.
3. Attach body to bottom of plate so head and tail are visible on either side.

#### Directions

1. Students glue construction paper all over the back of the paper plate.
2. Students attach eyes.
3. Students draw on a mouth.

## Discussion/Guided Questions

- What do you know about snails already?
- Have you found any in your backyard?
- What do you think snails eat? (Plants, fungi, algae)
- Based on what they eat, why do you think we wouldn't want snails in our garden?

## SNAIL SLIME

*Adapted from Valerie Bandell's Slugs & Snails SCRATCH Activity*

### Quick Facts

- Snail slime is solid and sticky.
- It has qualities of glue and of a lubricant to help snails move but also to help them stick (e.g. when crawling up vertical surfaces)
- It also protects them from environmental hazards like bacteria, sun, sharp objects, and dry weather.
- Their slime is a naturally occurring polymer
- Snail slime is used in makeup! (And, historically, used to soothe coughs.)
- Snails that just hatched will eat their own shells, or even their brothers' and sisters' shells!
- When threatened, they usually retreat into their shells and hide from predators.

### Materials

- Guar Gum
- Borax
- Water
- Container
- Food coloring

### Slime Directions:

1. Add borate solution to cup.
2. Add food coloring.
3. Slowly add guar gum, stirring constantly.

### Science Explanation/Guiding Questions

- Polymers are compounds that form long, linked chains.
- Polymers can be flexible, pliable, and stretchy. They tend to be strong and flexible.
- Naturally occurring polymers: juice of rubber or aloe plants
- Man Made polymers: Plastics, rubber balls, Styrofoam, latex paint, chewing gum!